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The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

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National Intelligence Council

28 April 1988

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Charles E. Allen
National Intelligence Officer for Warning

SUBJECT: Iraq -- Likely Increased Use of Chemical Warfare

1. Attached is a warning brief on the likelihood that Iraq will escalate its use of chemical weapons. Evidence is growing that Iraqi use of chemical agents contributed significantly to Baghdad's recent victory at Al Faw. Iraq, moreover, is already shifting its forces to two areas along the front with Iran where we believe it again will likely make heavy use of chemical weapons.

2. One area of concern that must be further assessed. The chances are small but growing that Iran or Iraq will initiate chemical attacks on the other's cities, and that the victimized country will retaliate in kind. The already extensive battlefield use of chemical munitions in the Iran-Iraq war and the muted world response reduces the prospective international political costs of such attacks. This combined with the increasingly mundane "war of the cities"-- now numbering over 200 total missile strikes -- is another step toward unrestricted attacks on population centers. The US Embassy in Baghdad clearly is not prepared to deal with this potential (emergency) threat.

3. The attached brief was coordinated with NIOs Einsel and Webster, but the responsibility for the judgments rests with the NIO for Warning.


Charles E. Allen

Attachment
As Stated

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